**AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method for calculating a multi-point VLAN latency measure, the method comprising:

receiving a plurality of links for a VLAN having a total number of VLAN paths, each of the ~~said~~ links having a first side and a second side and including a latency value, a count of access switches on the~~said~~ first side of the~~said~~ link and a count of access switches on the~~said~~ second side of the~~said~~ link;

initializing a latency counter to zero;

for each of ~~said~~the links in ~~said~~the VLAN:

multiplying ~~said~~the count of access switches on ~~said~~the first side of ~~said~~the link by ~~said~~the count of access switches on ~~said~~the second side of ~~said~~the link to derive a count of paths that include ~~said~~the link;

multiplying ~~said~~the count of paths that include ~~said~~the link by ~~said~~the latency value to derive a total latency for ~~said~~the link; and

incrementing ~~said~~the latency counter by ~~said~~the total latency value for ~~said~~the link; and

dividing ~~said~~the latency counter by the total number of VLAN paths~~a count of paths in said VLAN~~ to derive the~~said~~ multi-point VLAN latency measure for the~~said~~ VLAN.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein ~~said~~the total number of VLAN paths~~count of paths~~ is calculated by multiplying a total count of access switches in ~~said~~the VLAN by one less than ~~said~~the total count of access switches in ~~said~~the VLAN and then dividing the result by two.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein ~~said~~the links are received from an operational support system.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising transmitting a request to an operational support system for ~~said~~the plurality of links for ~~said~~the VLAN, wherein ~~said~~the count of access switches on ~~said~~the first side of ~~said~~the link and ~~said~~the count of access switches on ~~said~~the second side of ~~said~~the link are calculated by ~~said~~the operational support system in response to ~~said~~the transmitting.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein ~~said~~the count of access switches on ~~said~~the first side of ~~said~~the link and ~~said~~the count of access switches on ~~said~~the second side of ~~said~~the link are calculated by an operational support system as part of initializing ~~said~~the VLAN.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein ~~said~~the latency value is updated on a periodic basis.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein ~~said~~the receiving is in response to a user request for ~~said~~the multi-point VLAN latency measure for ~~said~~the VLAN.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising outputting ~~said~~the multi-point VLAN latency measure.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising outputting ~~said~~the multi-point VLAN latency measure to a service level agreement system.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein ~~said~~the VLAN is an Ethernet VLAN.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) A system for calculating a multi-point VLAN latency measure, the system comprising:

a network;

a host system in communication with ~~said~~the network, ~~said~~the host system including application software to implement a method comprising:

receiving via the network a plurality of links for a VLAN having a total number of VLAN paths,~~via said network,~~ each ~~said~~ of the links having a first side and a second side and including a latency value, a count of access switches on ~~said~~the first side of ~~said~~the link and a count of access switches on ~~said~~the second side of ~~said~~the link;

initializing a latency counter to zero;

for each ~~said~~of the links in ~~said~~the VLAN:

multiplying ~~said~~the count of access switches on ~~said~~the first side of ~~said~~the link by ~~said~~the count of access switches on ~~said~~the second side of ~~said~~the link to derive a count of paths that include ~~said~~the link;

multiplying ~~said~~the count of paths that include ~~said~~the link by ~~said~~the latency value to derive a total latency for ~~said~~the link; and

incrementing ~~said~~the latency counter by ~~said~~the total latency value for ~~said~~the link; and

dividing ~~said~~the latency counter by the total number of VLAN paths~~a count of paths in said VLAN~~ to derive ~~said~~the multi-point VLAN latency measure for ~~said~~the VLAN.

13. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12 wherein ~~said~~the network is the Internet.

14. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12 wherein ~~said~~the network in an intranet.

15. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12 further comprising a storage device in communication with ~~said~~the network wherein ~~said~~the plurality of links are stored in ~~said~~the storage device.

16. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 15 wherein ~~said~~the method further comprises outputting ~~said~~the multi-point VLAN latency measure to ~~said~~the storage device.

17. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12 further comprising a user system in communication with ~~said~~the network, wherein ~~said~~the receiving is performed in response to a request from ~~said~~the user system for ~~said~~the multi-point VLAN latency measure for ~~said~~the VLAN.

18. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for calculating a multi-point VLAN latency measure, the computer program product comprising:

a storage medium readable by a processing circuit and storing instructions for execution by the processing circuit for facilitating a method comprising:

receiving a plurality of links for a VLAN having a total number of VLAN paths, each ~~said~~of the links having a first side and a second side and including a latency value, a count of access switches on ~~said~~the first side of ~~said~~the link and a count of access switches on ~~said~~the second side of ~~said~~the link;

initializing a latency counter to zero;

for each ~~said~~of the links in ~~said~~the VLAN:

multiplying ~~said~~the count of access switches on ~~said~~the first side of ~~said~~the link by ~~said~~the count of access switches on ~~said~~the second side of ~~said~~the link to derive a count of paths that include ~~said~~the link;

multiplying ~~said~~the count of paths that include ~~said~~the link by ~~said~~the latency value to derive a total latency for ~~said~~the link; and

incrementing ~~said~~the latency counter by ~~said~~the total latency value for ~~said~~the link; and

dividing ~~said~~the latency counter by the total number of VLAN paths~~a count of paths in said VLAN~~ to derive ~~said~~the multi-point VLAN latency measure for ~~said~~the VLAN.